

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 01408 302039Z

66

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 TRSE-00 SY-05 L-03 SCA-01 SS-15

A-01 /039 W

----- 111120

P R 301602Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9303

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 1408

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AFSP, US, UR

SUBJECT: CUSTOMS INSPECTION OF PERSONAL EFFECTS OF U.S.

ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNICAL STAFF

REF: 75 MOSCOW 17630, 75 STATE 294130,

1. AS SUGGESTED IN 75 STATE 294130 THE EMBASSY MADE ANOTHER APPROACH TO MFA POINTING OUT THE COURTESIES EXTENDED BY U.S. CUSTOMS TO SOVIET ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STAFF ASSIGNED TO WASHINGTON. WE STRESSED THAT ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS SOVIET CUSTOMS SHOULD EXTEND SIMILAR COURTESIES TO MARINES ASSIGNED TO MOSCOW. MFA AGREED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER.

2. THIS WEEK MFA (TRIFONOV, CHIEF BILATERAL SECTION, USA DIVISION) ADVISED THE EMBASSY ORALLY THAT SOVIET LAW REGARDING CUSTOMS RIGHT TO INSPECT THE PERSONAL EFFECTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL "COULDN'T BE WAIVED." EMBOFF REPLIED THAT WE WERE NOT QUESTIONING SOVIET CUSTOMS RIGHT OF INSPECTION, BUT WE WERE ASKING FOR RECIPROCAL TREATMENT. TRIFONOV SUGGESTED WE HANDLE PENDING SHIPMENTS IN THE NORMAL MANNER. ON JANUARY 29 WE REQUESTED THE RELEASE OF PERSONAL EFFECTS (ONE SUITCASE) OF AN INCOMING MARINE. THEY WERE RELEASED TO US WITHOUT CUSTOMS INSPECTION, BUT ON FOLLOWING DAY CUSTOMS ADVISED THIS WAS ERROR--AT THEIR REQUEST WE RETURNED SUITCASE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 01408 302039Z

3. ON JANUARY 30 THE EMBASSY ATTEMPTED TO SHIP OUT THE PERSONAL

EFFECTS OF TWO MARINES WHO DEPARTED MOSCOW SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. THE CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES INSISTED ON INSPECTION OR A CALL FROM MFA REQUESTING THEIR RELEASE. OUR EMPLOYEE ACCOMPANING THESE PERSONAL EFFECTS CALLED THE EMBASSY WHICH IN TURN CALLED MFA (TRIFONOV) WHO DECLINED TO TAKE ANY ACTION STATING AGAIN THAT "SOVIET LAW COULD NOT BE WAIVED". THE EMBOFF THEN REPLIED THAT WE WOULD WITHDRAW THE SHIPMENTS UNOPENED AND SEEK INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT. TRIFONOV EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE MATTER WOULD NOT BE MADE ONE OF PRINCIPLE.

4. TRIFONOV ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE MATTER BE A TOPIC IN THE UP-COMING US/SOVIET CONSULAR DISCUSSIONS. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL AND PLAN TO DO SO, BUT IT WILL NOT PROVIDE A SOLTUTION FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AT LEAST. END COMMENT.

5. THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS AND GUIDANCE ARE REQUESTED ON AN URGENT BASIS AS CONTINUING HOLD-UP OF BAGGAGE IS CAUSING PERSONAL HARD-SHIP FOR MARINES CONCERNED.
STOESSEL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL, CUSTOMS INSPECTIONS, PERSONAL EFFECTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW01408
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760036-0400
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976015/aaaaadqp.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 17630, 76 STATE 294130
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUSTOMS INSPECTION OF PERSONAL EFFECTS OF U.S. ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNICAL STAFF
TAGS: PFOR, AFSP, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006